IMEC169.001APC PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Dierickx et al.	Group Art Unit Unknown
Int'l Appl. No. :		PCT/BE98/00139	
Int'l Filing Date:		September 22, 1998	
For	:	DEVICES AND METHOD FOR IMPROVING THE IMAGE QUALITY IN AN IMAGE SENSOR	
Examiner	:	Unknown	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please delete Claims 5 and 9.

1. (Amended) An image sensor comprising an array of rows (i) and columns (j) of pixels (X_{ij}), all the pixels of one column of the array being connected to at least one common pixel output line (l_j) having at least one memory element (M_j) and at least a first amplifying element (A_j), all these amplifying elements (A_j) being connected to a common output amplifier (D), characterized in that the sensor further comprises:

a second amplifying element (B_j) on the output of the memory element (M_j),

said common output amplifier (D) having at least two input terminals,

means (S1) for switching the pixel's signal on the common output line (l_j) and the memory element's signal (M_j) to respectively third and second amplifying elements (A_j and B_j) of one column, and

Concl. A1

means (S2) for switching the two output signals of the amplifying elements (A_j, B_j) of one column to respectively first and second input terminals of said common **[output]** amplifier (D).

A2 Sub B

3. (Amended) An image sensor comprising an array of rows and columns of pixels (X_{ij}), all the pixels of one column of the array being connected to at least one common pixel output line (l_j) having at least one memory element (M_j) and at least one amplifying element (A_j), all these amplifying elements (A_j) being connected to a common output amplifier (D), characterized in that before the amplifying element (A_j), the common pixel output line (l_j) is divided through switches ($S4_j$ and $S5_j$) in at least two parallel circuits, **at least** one circuit having said memory element (M_j), **[the two parallel circuits being connected through a switch ($S6_j$) with the same input of said amplifying element (A_j)]**.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: May 12, 1999

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